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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Chiyo AKAMATSU et al.

Serial No.: 09/381,401

Filed: September 20, 1999

For: AV APPARATUS METHOD FOR USING THE
APPARATUS AND AV APPARATUS SYSTEM

Group: 2711

Examiner: Unassigned

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Technology Center 2800

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 & 1.98

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

November 1, 2002

Sir:

In the matter of the above-identified application, Applicants are submitting herewith a copy of a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and copies of the documents listed in the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449 for the Examiner's consideration.

This information disclosure statement is being submitted before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits and with the following certification specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e):

On information and belief, I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

To the extent that, one documents listed on the attached form equivalent to Form PTO-1449, is not in the English language, the requirement of 37 CFR 1.98(a)(3) for a concise explanation of the relevance is satisfied by the Office Action

in corresponding Chinese patent application No. 97182056.2 listed on the enclosed Form.

It is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement be considered by the Examiner.

Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (501.37459X00) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



Melvin Kraus
Registration No. 22,466

1300 North 17th Street
Suite 1800
Arlington, VA 22209
Tel: (703) 312-6600
Fax: (703) 312-6666

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Enclosures: European Search Report
Form PTO-1449 (equivalent)
7 References